

Universal Child Safety Seat System (UCSSS):

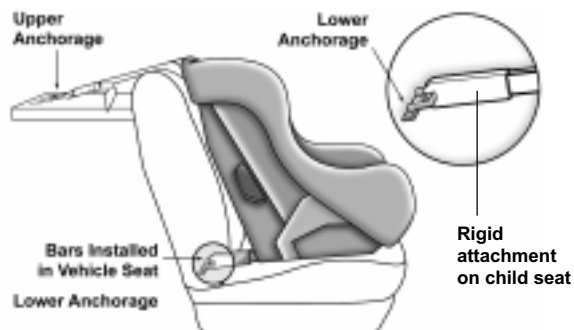


The UCSSS is a uniform anchorage (attachment) system for all new motor vehicles and child safety seats. The new system will greatly simplify child safety seat installation and will protect children by keeping seats more secure in vehicles. At least two rear seating positions in each vehicle will be equipped with the system. In addition, a third rear seating position will have an upper (tether) anchorage to hold the child seat tightly so the child's head won't move too far forward in the event of a crash.

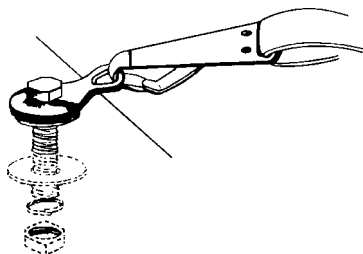
Example: Flexible 2-Point Attachment with Top Tether



Example: Rigid 2-Point Attachment with Top Tether



Example: Top Tether



What does the System look like?

In the vehicle: The new UCSSS consists of two lower anchorages and one upper anchorage. Each lower anchorage will be a rigid, round rod or bar located where the vehicle seat cushion meets the seat back. The upper anchorage will be a ring-like object, permanently attached to the vehicle at the top of the rear seat.

On the child safety seat: The new child safety seats will have a hook, buckle or other connector that snaps onto the lower anchorages (bars) in the vehicle. A tether strap from the top of the child safety seat will be attached to the upper anchorage (ring).

When will the new system be available?

The UCSSS will be phased in over the next three years, beginning with the upper anchorage requirements for new vehicles and child safety seats manufactured on or after September 1, 1999. By September 1, 2002, all new vehicles and child safety seats will be equipped with the new system.

Is my old seat unsafe?

No! Child safety seats on the market today are safe when used properly, but too many are incorrectly installed in vehicles. The UCSSS will help resolve this problem. Continue to use your current child safety seat properly, making sure that you have read the child seat and vehicle owner's manual about proper child seat use and installation in your vehicle. And, remember, children age 12 and under ride safer when properly buckled up in the back seat.

Will the new child seats fit my older vehicle?

Yes! New child safety seats can be used in older vehicles. They will need to be installed using the vehicle's belt system rather than the UCSSS.

Will the new system make kids safer?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that once all vehicles and child safety seats have the new system, America will save about 50 lives and prevent 3,000 injuries every year.

How can I get the new system?

Ask your car dealer which new models (beginning in September 1999) are equipped with the upper tether anchorage. Child safety seat manufacturers and retailers should be able to help you identify which seats have the new system.

For more information, call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

or log on to the Internet at: www.nhtsa.dot.gov



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